

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 96-183-C - ORDER NO. 98-543

JULY 15, 1998

IN RE: Application of American Communications Services, Inc. (ACSI) DBA e.spire Communications, Inc.))))	ORDER GRANTING FLEXIBLE REGULATORY TREATMENT
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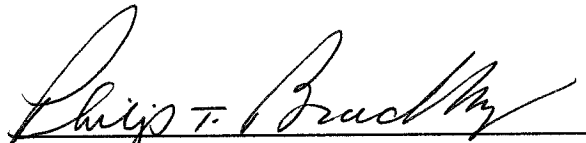
This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the request of American Communication Services, Inc. d/b/a e.spire Communications, Inc. (ACSI or the Company) for flexible regulatory treatment of its local telecommunications services comparable to that authorized for NewSouth Communications through Order No. 98-165 in Docket No. 97-467-C. ACSI requests that the Commission approve for its local exchange services a rate structure incorporating maximum rate levels with the flexibility for adjustment below the maximum rate levels. Further, ACSI requests that its local exchange tariff filings be presumed valid upon filing, subject to the Commission's right within thirty (30) days to institute an investigation of the tariff filing, in which case such filing would be suspended pending further Order of the Commission; and that any such tariff filings will be subject to the same monitoring process as similarly situated competitive local exchange carriers.

The Commission's Executive Director directed ACSI to publish, one time, in newspapers of general circulation, a Notice of Filing. The purpose of the Notice of Filing was to inform the public of a way in which to participate in the proceeding. The Company filed an affidavit with the Commission, showing that it had complied with the directions of the Executive Director. No Protests were received.

We have therefore considered the matter, and hold that ACSI may be regulated in a manner similar to that methodology granted to NewSouth Communications through Order No. 98-165 in Docket No. 97-467-C, as outlined above. We see no reason not to grant the requested relief.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Acting Executive Director

(SEAL)